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THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
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THE HEDGEHOG
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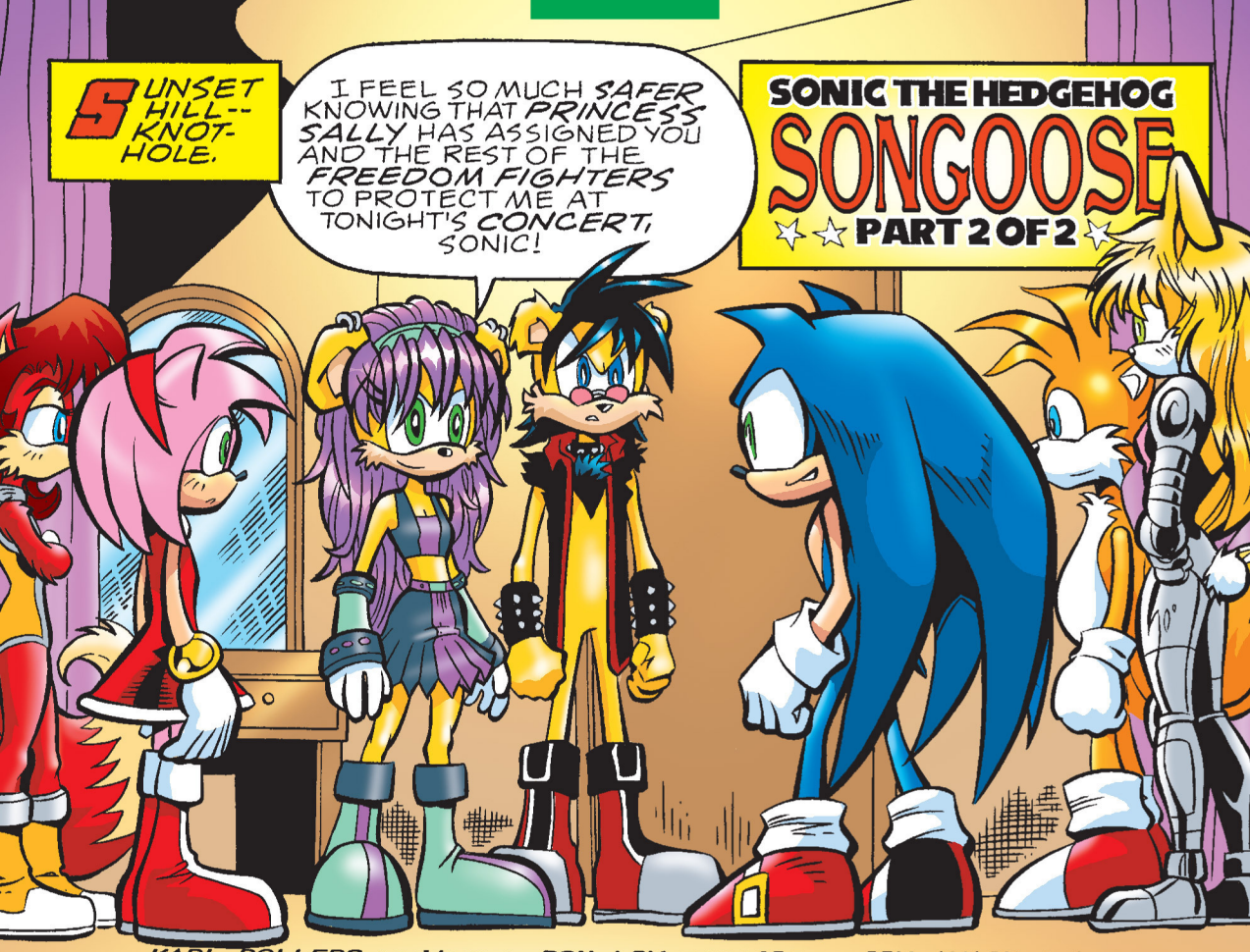
SUNSET HILL--KNOT-HOLE.
I FEEL SO MUCH SAFER KNOWING THAT PRINCESS SALLY HAS ASSIGNED YOU AND THE REST OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO PROTECT ME AT TONIGHT'S CONCERT, SONIC!
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
SONGOOSE
PART 2 OF 2

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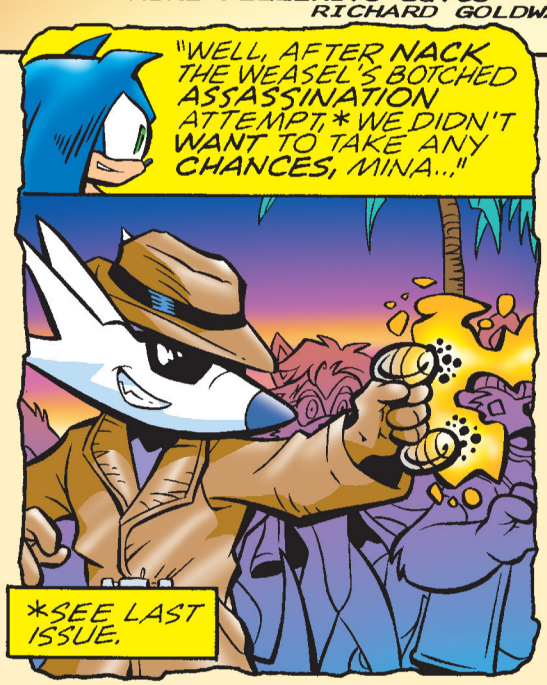
MIKE PELLERITO-edits • VICTOR GORELICK-managing edits
RICHARD GOLDWATER-edits in chief



...AND IF DOCTOR ROBOTNIK HATES YOUR MUSIC SO MUCH THAT HE'S WILLING TO PUT A HIT ON YOU, THAT'S JUST ONE MORE REASON FOR THE REST OF THE PLANET TO LISTEN TO IT!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT LEFFLER AND DYNA LOPEZ AT SEGA LICENSING

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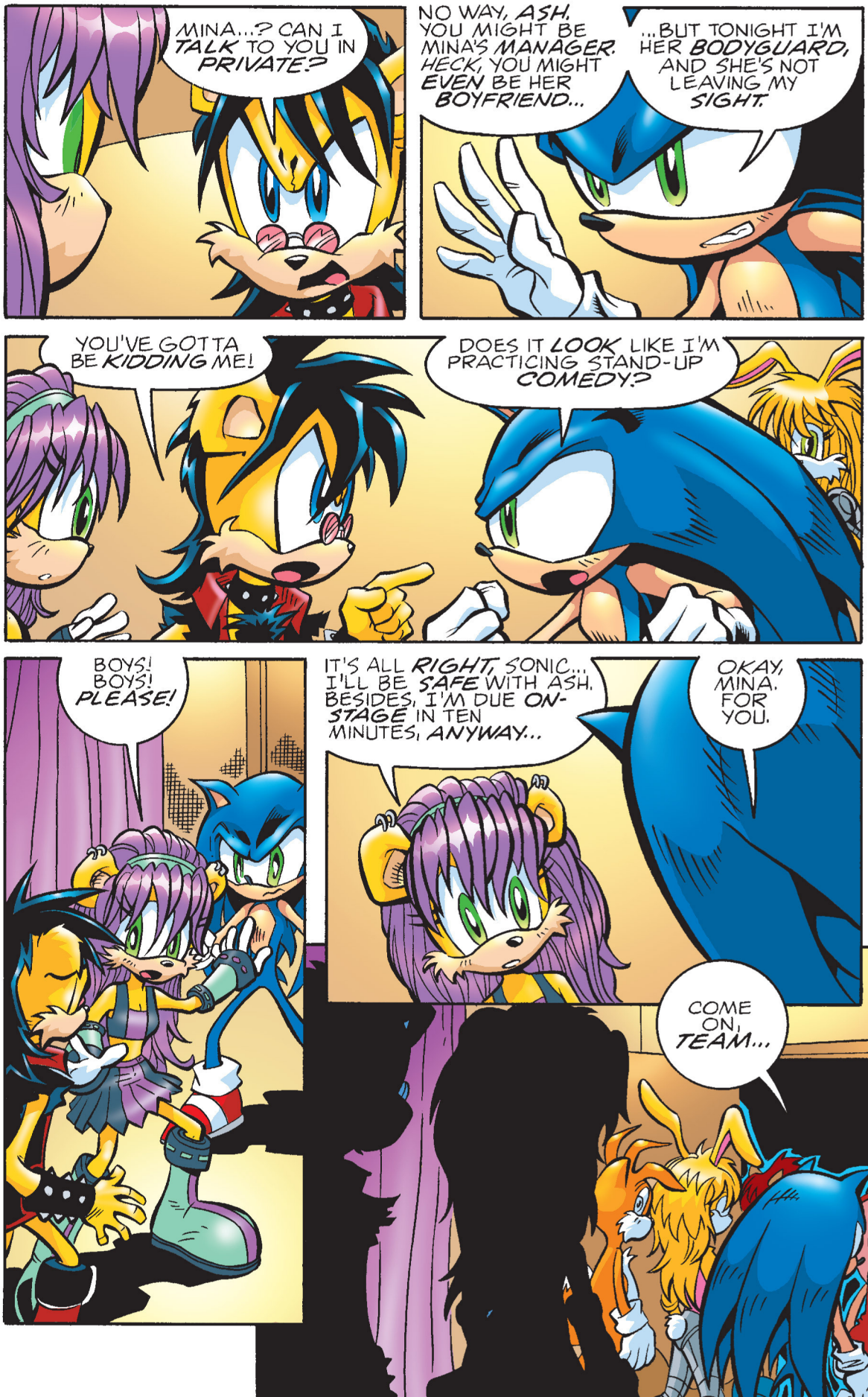
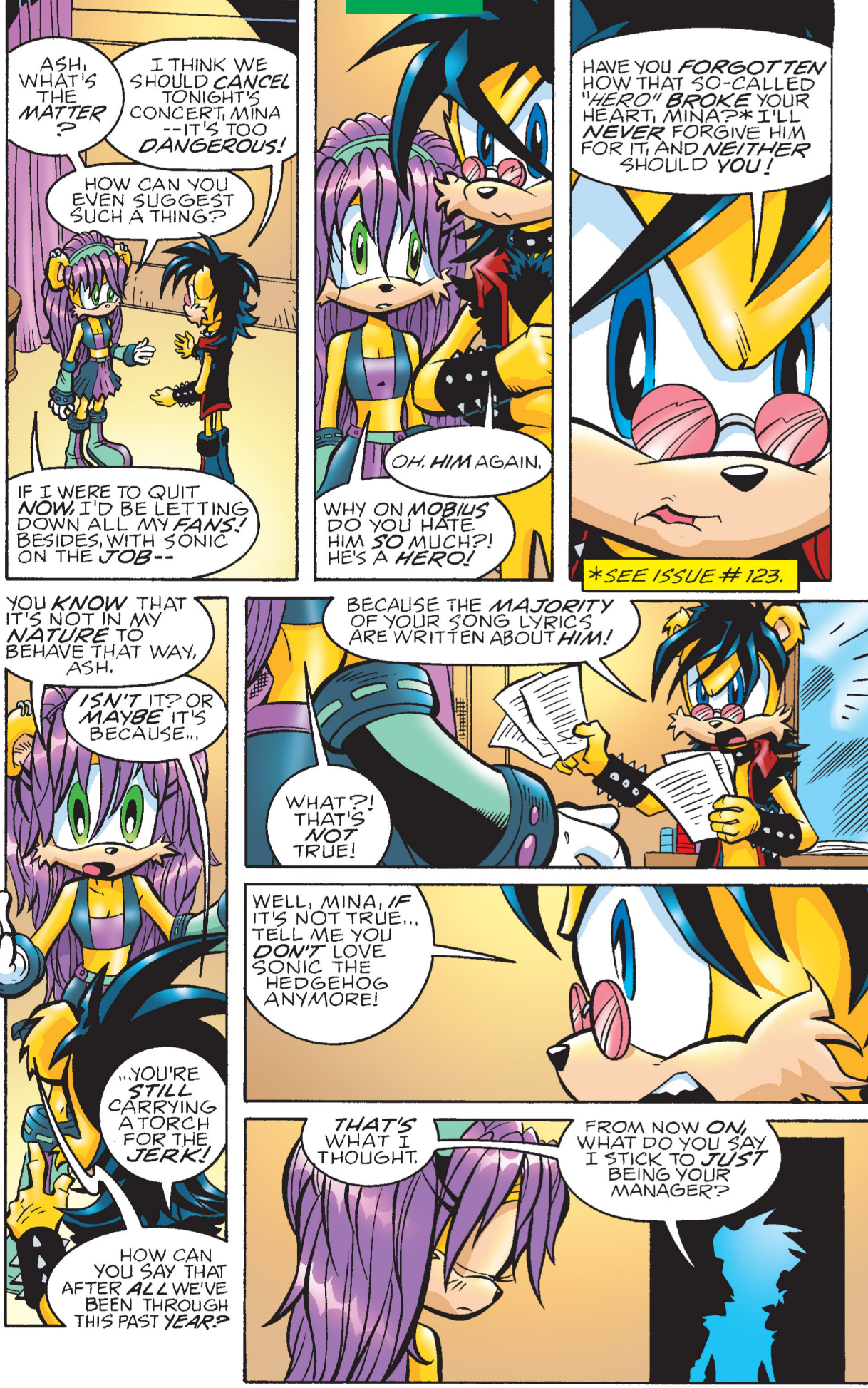
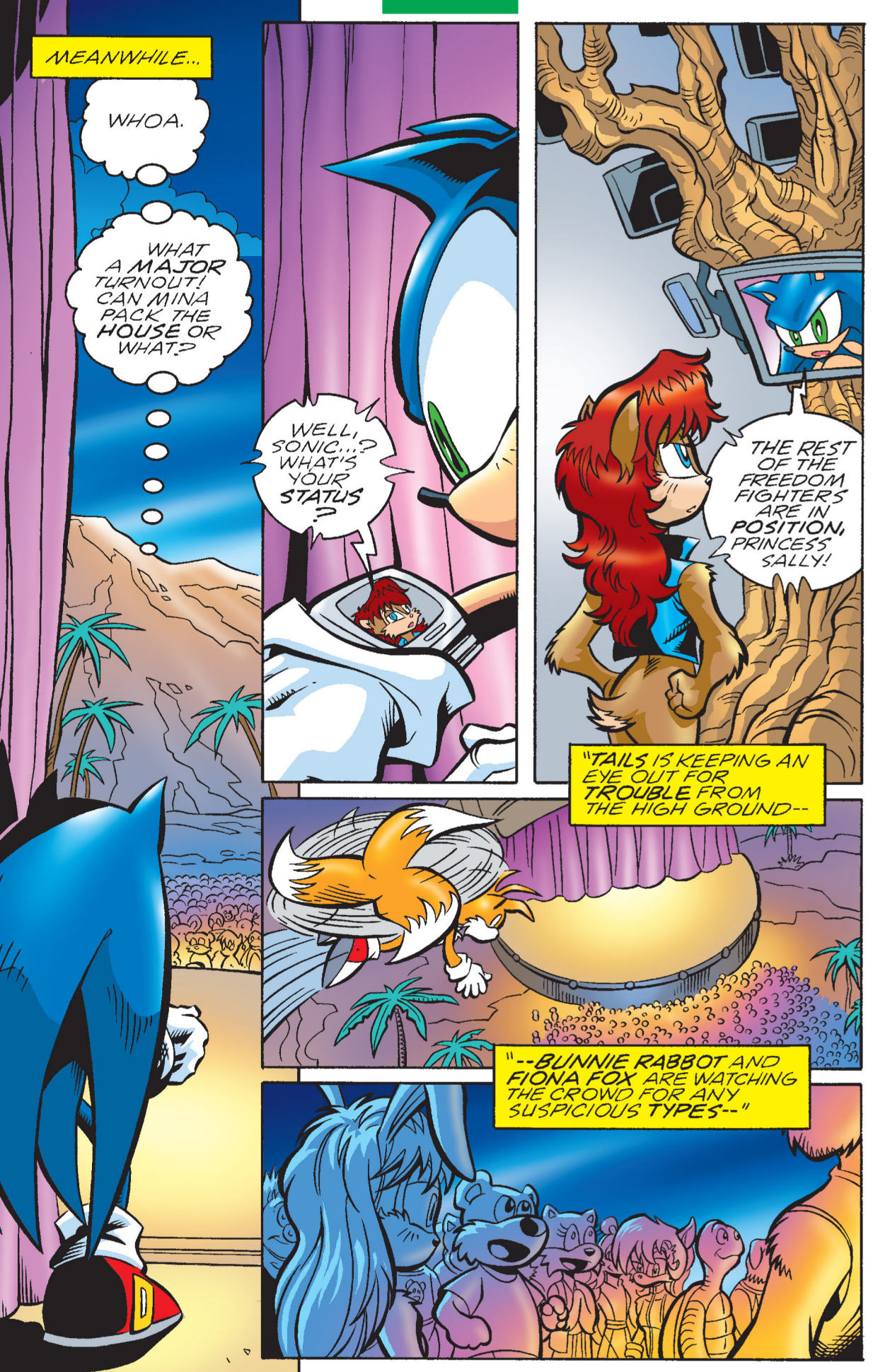
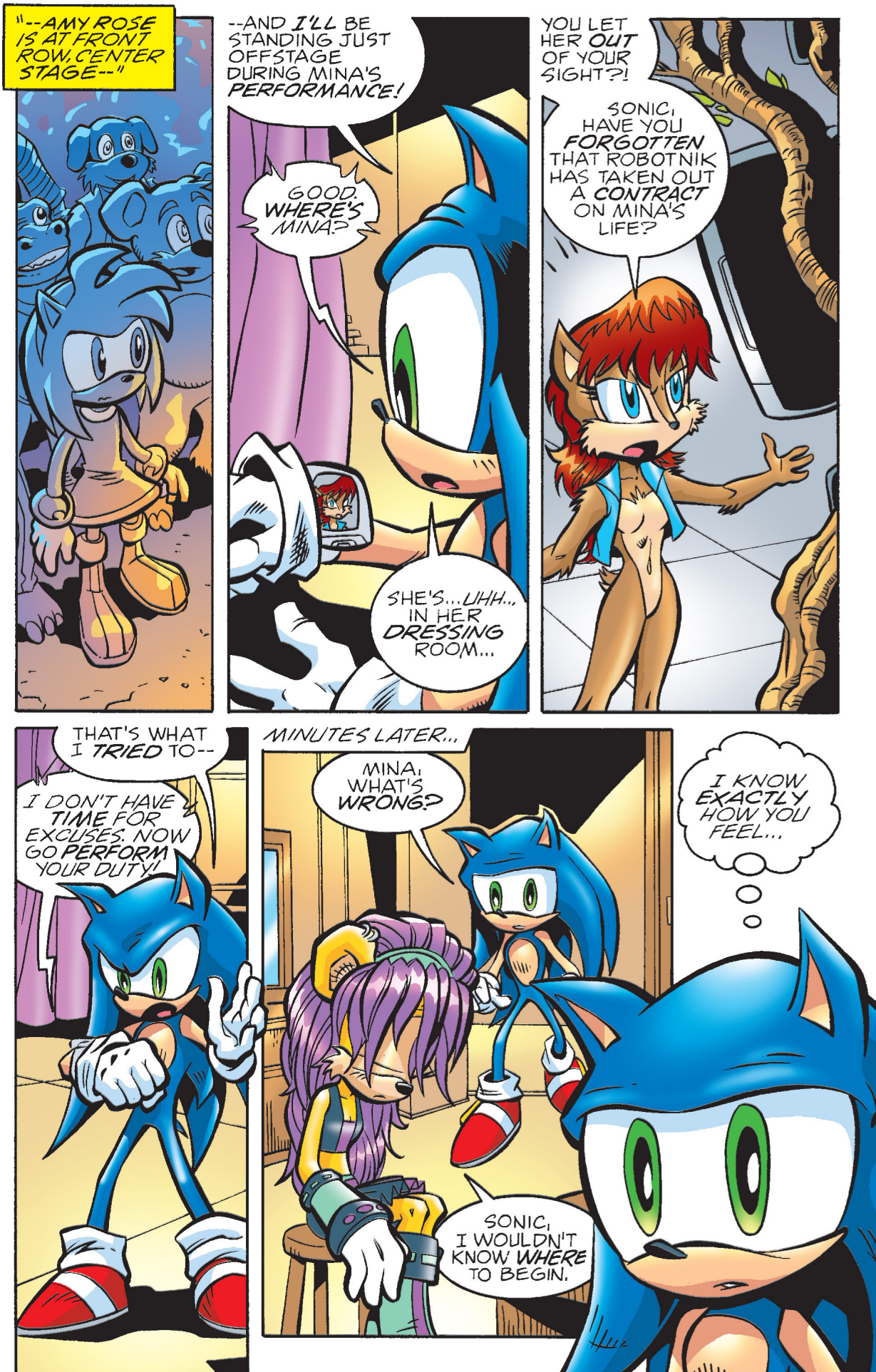
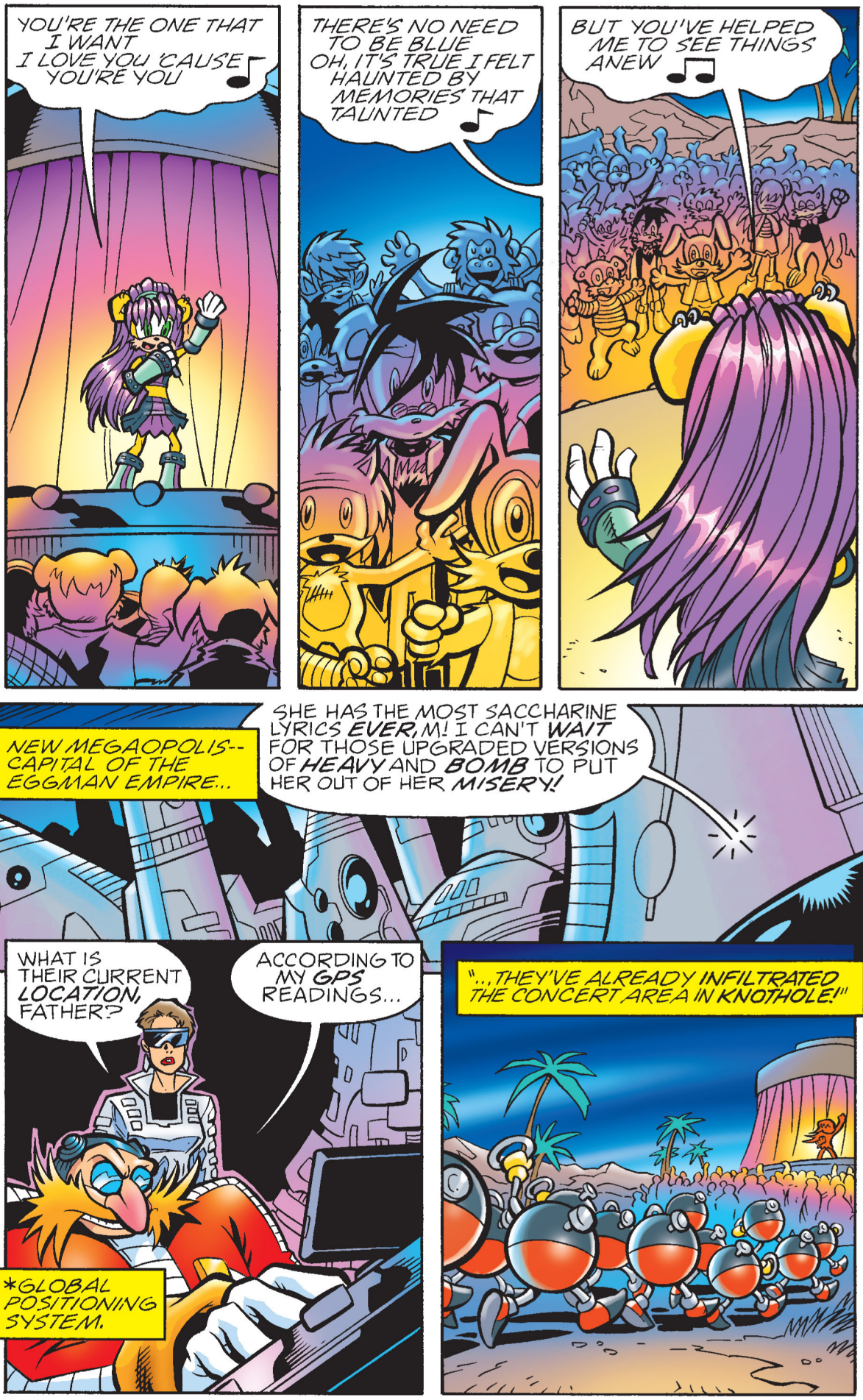
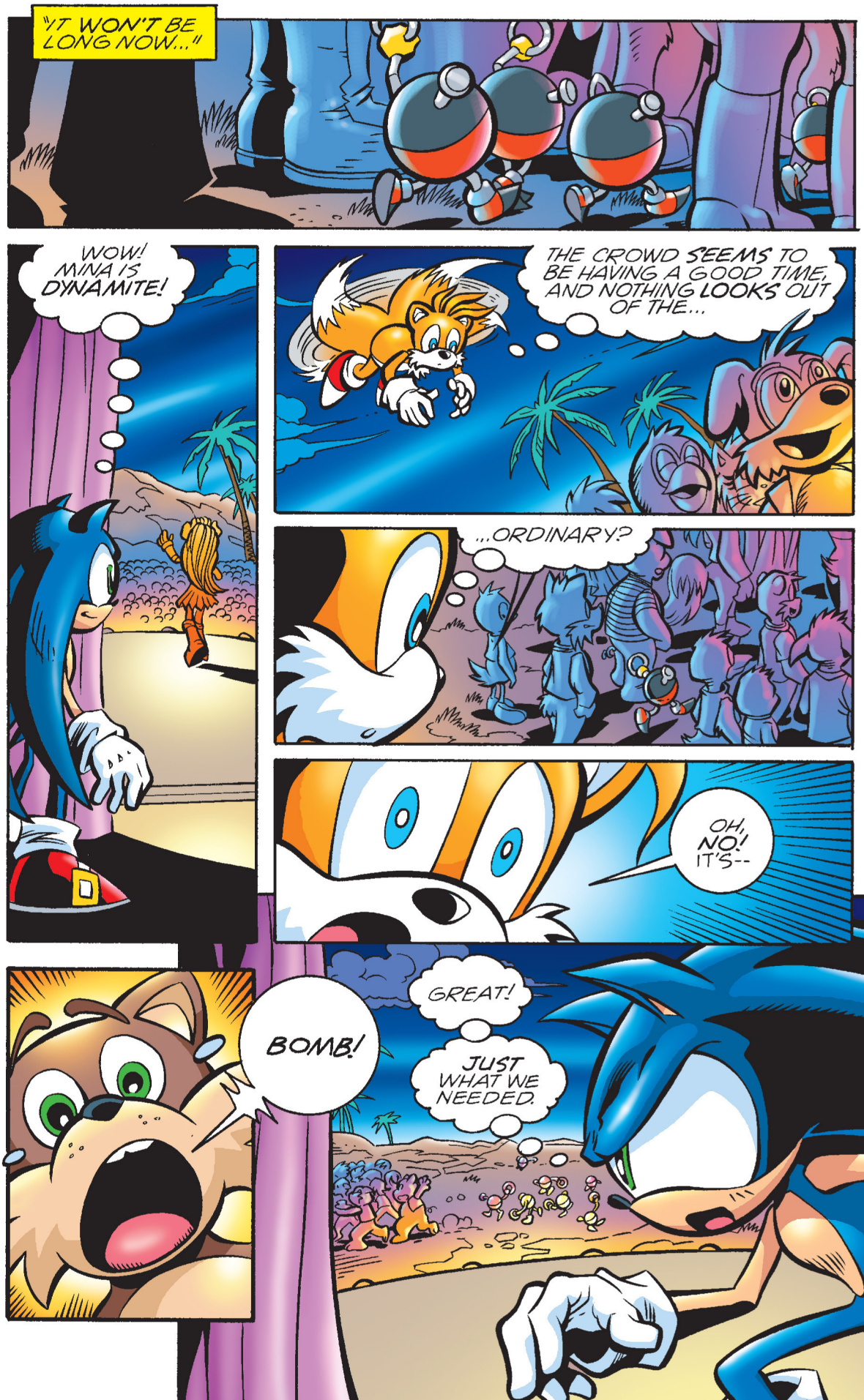

MINA...? CAN I TALK TO YOU IN PRIVATE?
NO WAY, ASH. YOU MIGHT BE MINA'S MANAGER. HECK, YOU MIGHT EVEN BE HER BOYFRIEND...
...BUT TONIGHT I'M HER BODYGUARD, AND SHE'S NOT LEAVING MY SIGHT.
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!
DOES IT LOOK LIKE I'M PRACTICING STAND-UP COMEDY?
BOYS! BOYS! PLEASE!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, SONIC... I'LL BE SAFE WITH ASH. BESIDES, I'M DUE ON-STAGE IN TEN MINUTES, ANYWAY...
OKAY, MINA. FOR YOU.
COME ON, TEAM...

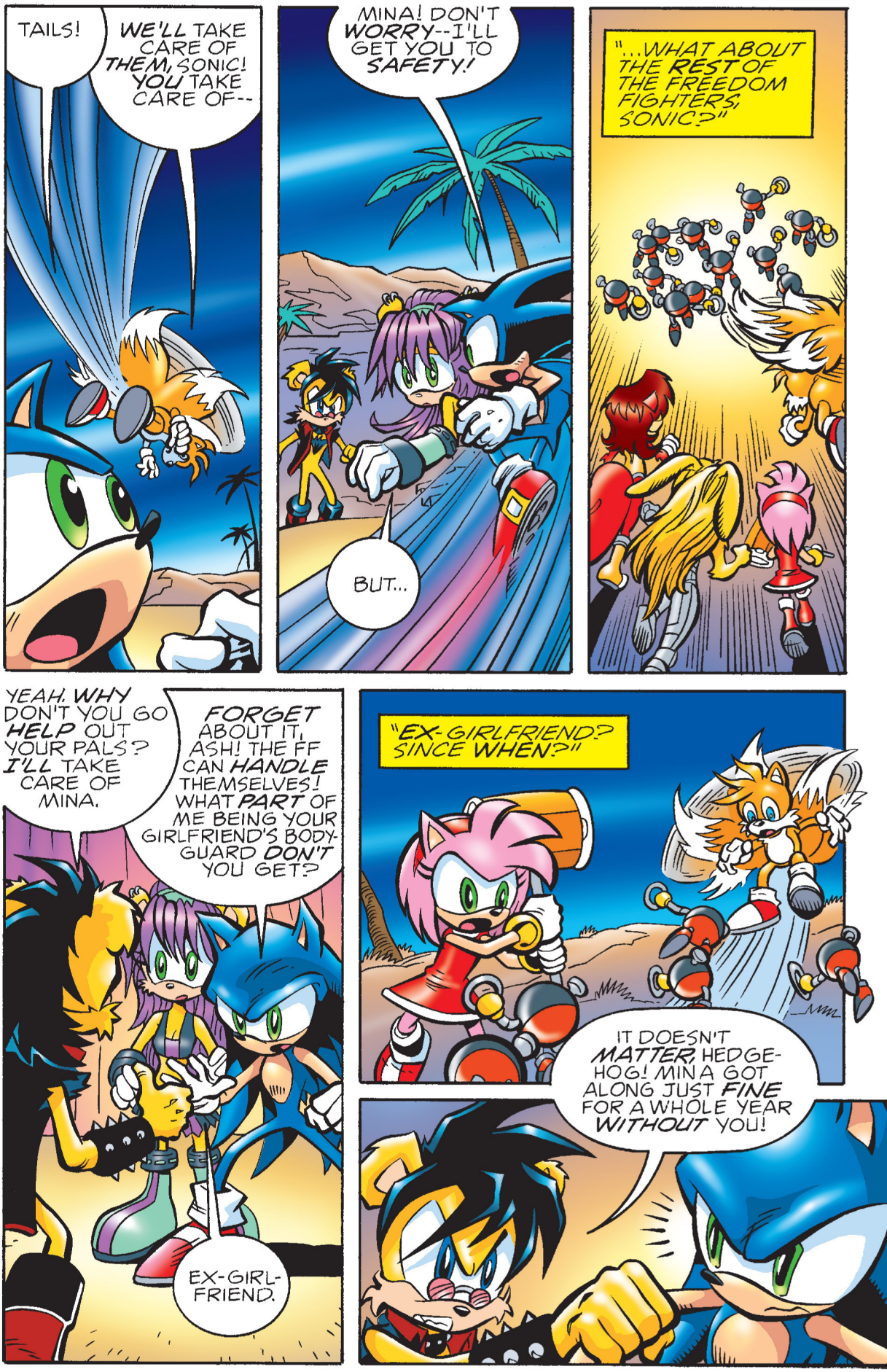

ASH, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I THINK WE SHOULD CANCEL TONIGHT'S CONCERT, MINA --IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
HOW CAN YOU EVEN SUGGEST SUCH A THING?
IF I WERE TO QUIT NOW, I'D BE LETTING DOWN ALL MY FANS! BESIDES, WITH SONIC ON THE JOB--
OH. HIM AGAIN.
WHY ON MOBIUS DO YOU HATE HIM SO MUCH?! HE'S A HERO!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW THAT SO-CALLED "HERO" BROKE YOUR HEART, MINA?* I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM FOR IT, AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU!
*SEE ISSUE #123.
YOU KNOW THAT IT'S NOT IN MY NATURE TO BEHAVE THAT WAY, ASH.
ISN'T IT? OR MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE...
...YOU'RE STILL CARRYING A TORCH FOR THE JERK!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS PAST YEAR?
BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF YOUR SONG LYRICS ARE WRITTEN ABOUT HIM!
WHAT?! THAT'S NOT TRUE!
WELL, MINA, IF IT'S NOT TRUE... TELL ME YOU DON'T LOVE SONIC THE HEDGEHOG ANYMORE!
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
FROM NOW ON, WHAT DO YOU SAY I STICK TO JUST BEING YOUR MANAGER?


MEANWHILE...
WHOA.
WHAT A MAJOR TURNOUT! CAN MINA PACK THE HOUSE OR WHAT?
WELL, SONIC...? WHAT'S YOUR STATUS?
THE REST OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS ARE IN POSITION, PRINCESS SALLY!
"TAILS IS KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR TROUBLE FROM THE HIGH GROUND--
"--BUNNIE RABBOT AND FIONA FOX ARE WATCHING THE CROWD FOR ANY SUSPICIOUS TYPES--"

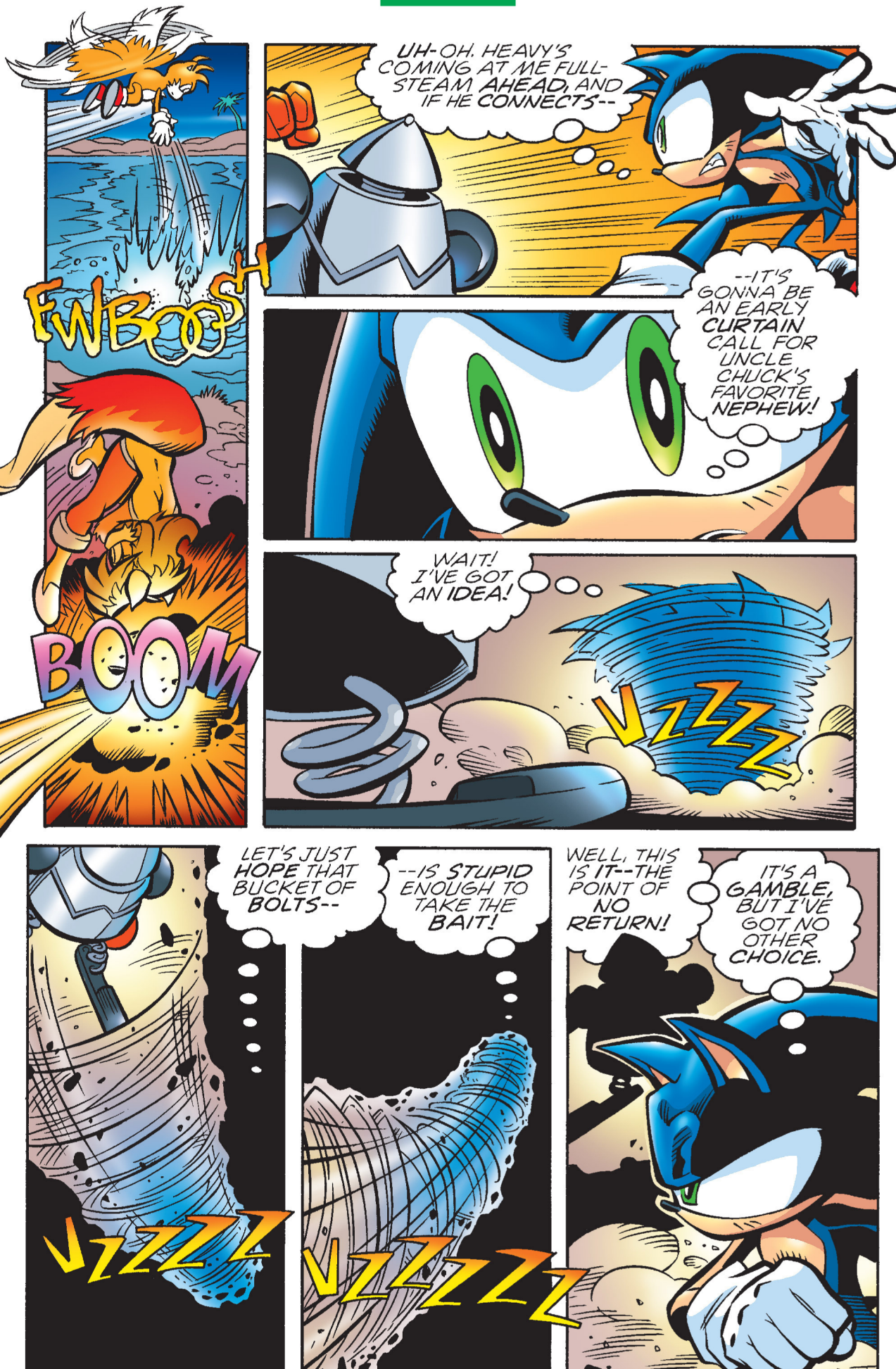

"--AMY ROSE IS AT FRONT ROW, CENTER STAGE--"
--AND I'LL BE STANDING JUST OFFSTAGE DURING MINA'S PERFORMANCE!
GOOD. WHERE'S MINA?
SHE'S...UHH... IN HER DRESSING ROOM...
YOU LET HER OUT OF YOUR SIGHT?!
SONIC, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT ROBOTNIK HAS TAKEN OUT A CONTRACT ON MINA'S LIFE?
THAT'S WHAT I TRIED TO--
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR EXCUSES. NOW GO PERFORM YOUR DUTY!
MINUTES LATER...
MINA, WHAT'S WRONG?
SONIC, I WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.
I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL...

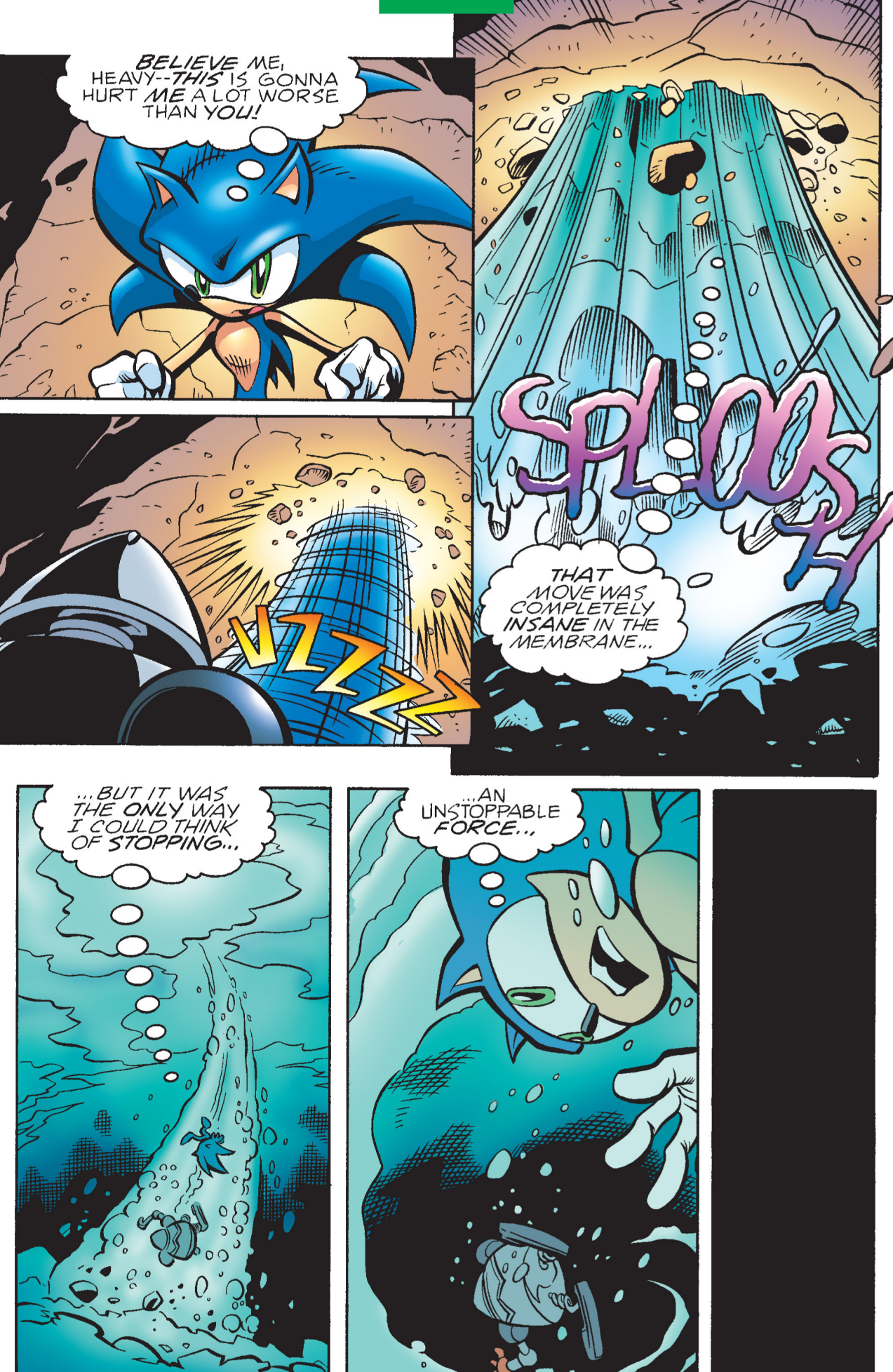

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT I WANT I LOVE YOU 'CAUSE YOU'RE YOU
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE BLUE OH, IT'S TRUE I FELT HAUNTED BY MEMORIES THAT TAUNTED
BUT YOU'VE HELPED ME TO SEE THINGS ANEW
NEW MEGAOPOLIS--CAPITAL OF THE EGGMAN EMPIRE...
SHE HAS THE MOST SACCHARINE LYRICS EVER, M! I CAN'T WAIT FOR THOSE UPGRADED VERSIONS OF HEAVY AND BOMB TO PUT HER OUT OF HER MISERY!
WHAT IS THEIR CURRENT LOCATION, FATHER?
ACCORDING TO MY GPS READINGS...
*GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM.
"...THEY'VE ALREADY INFILTRATED THE CONCERT AREA IN KNOTHOLE!"

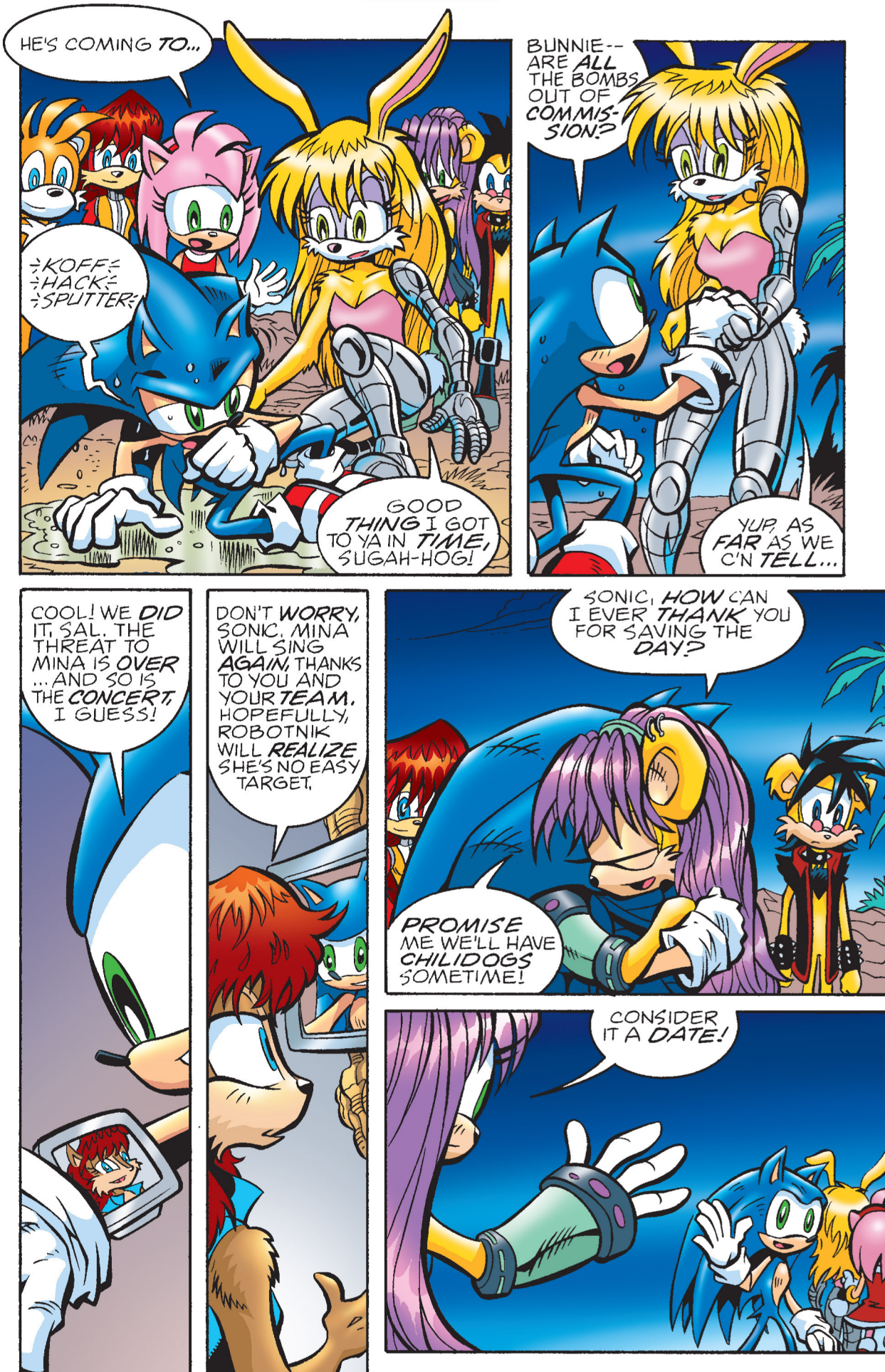

"IT WON'T BE LONG NOW..."
WOW! MINA IS DYNAMITE!
THE CROWD SEEMS TO BE HAVING A GOOD TIME, AND NOTHING LOOKS OUT OF THE...
...ORDINARY?
OH, NO! IT'S--
BOMB!
GREAT!
JUST WHAT WE NEEDED.

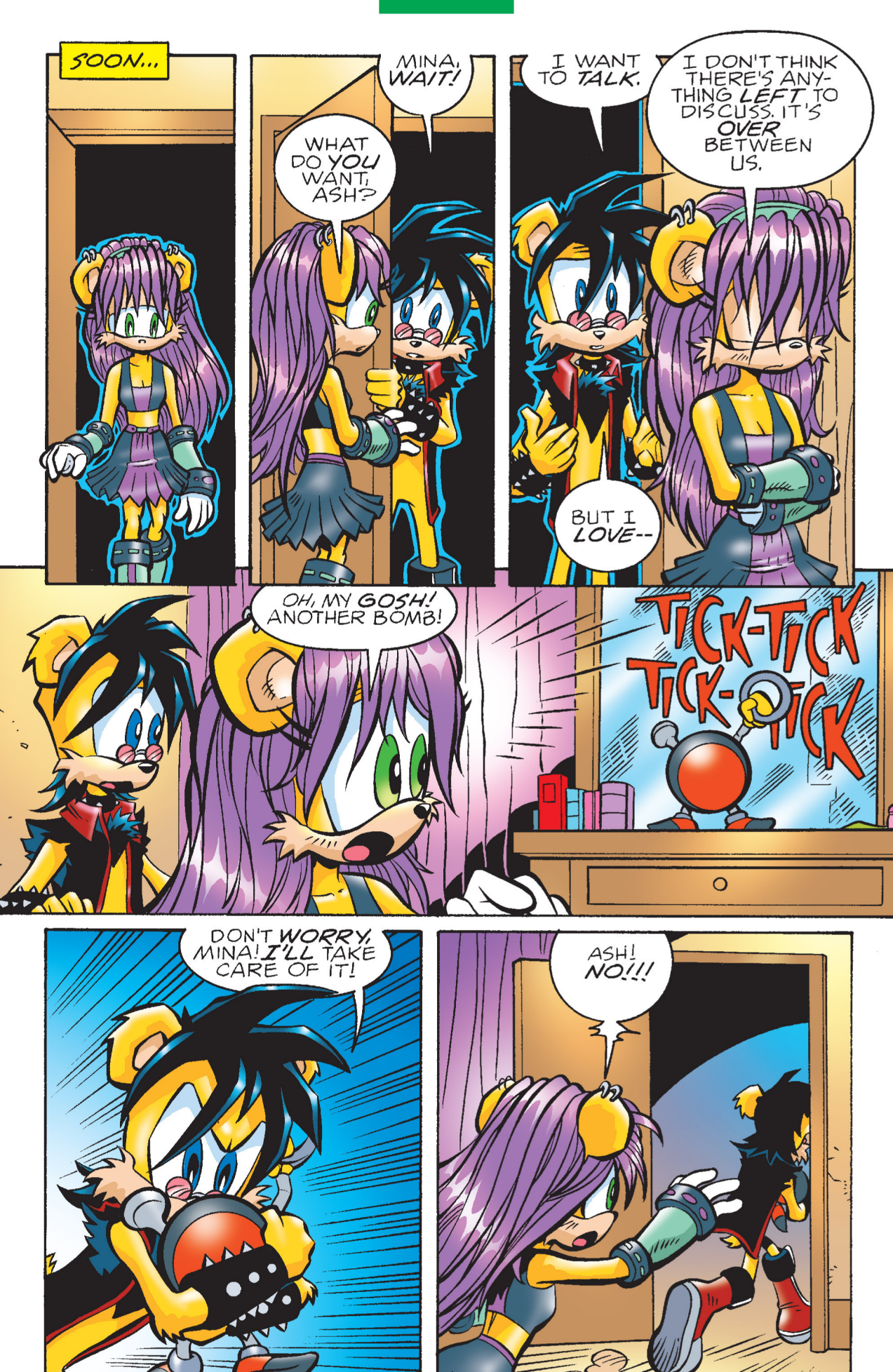

TAILS!
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM, SONIC! YOU TAKE CARE OF--
MINA! DON'T WORRY--I'LL GET YOU TO SAFETY!
BUT...
"...WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, SONIC?"
YEAH. WHY DON'T YOU GO HELP OUT YOUR PALS? I'LL TAKE CARE OF MINA.
FORGET ABOUT IT, ASH! THE FF CAN HANDLE THEMSELVES! WHAT PART OF ME BEING YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S BODY-GUARD DON'T YOU GET?
EX-GIRL-FRIEND.
"EX-GIRLFRIEND? SINCE WHEN?"
IT DOESN'T MATTER, HEDGE-HOG! MINA GOT ALONG JUST FINE FOR A WHOLE YEAR WITHOUT YOU!

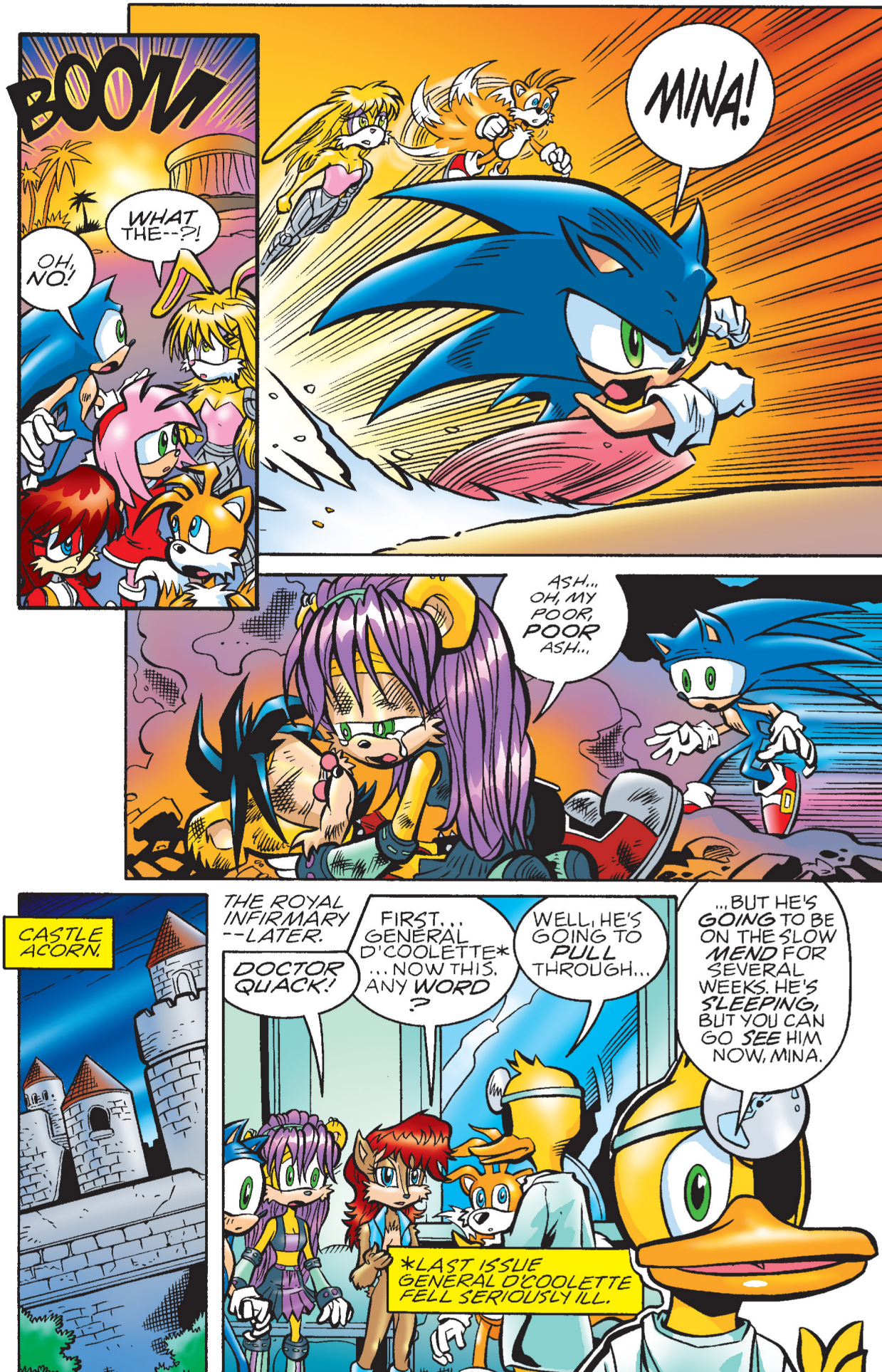
"WELL, MAYBE 'JUST FINE' DOESN'T CUT IT ANY MORE!"
NOW BACK OFF, DUDE, OR ELSE.
OR ELSE WHAT, "DUDE"?
HEAVY!
KBRASH!
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN. HE AND BOMB ALWAYS COME AS A PACKAGE DEAL!
ASH--GET MINA TO SAFETY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE!
BOOM!
GEEZ, HEAVY! HIT ME, ALREADY! I'M GETTING BORED HERE!

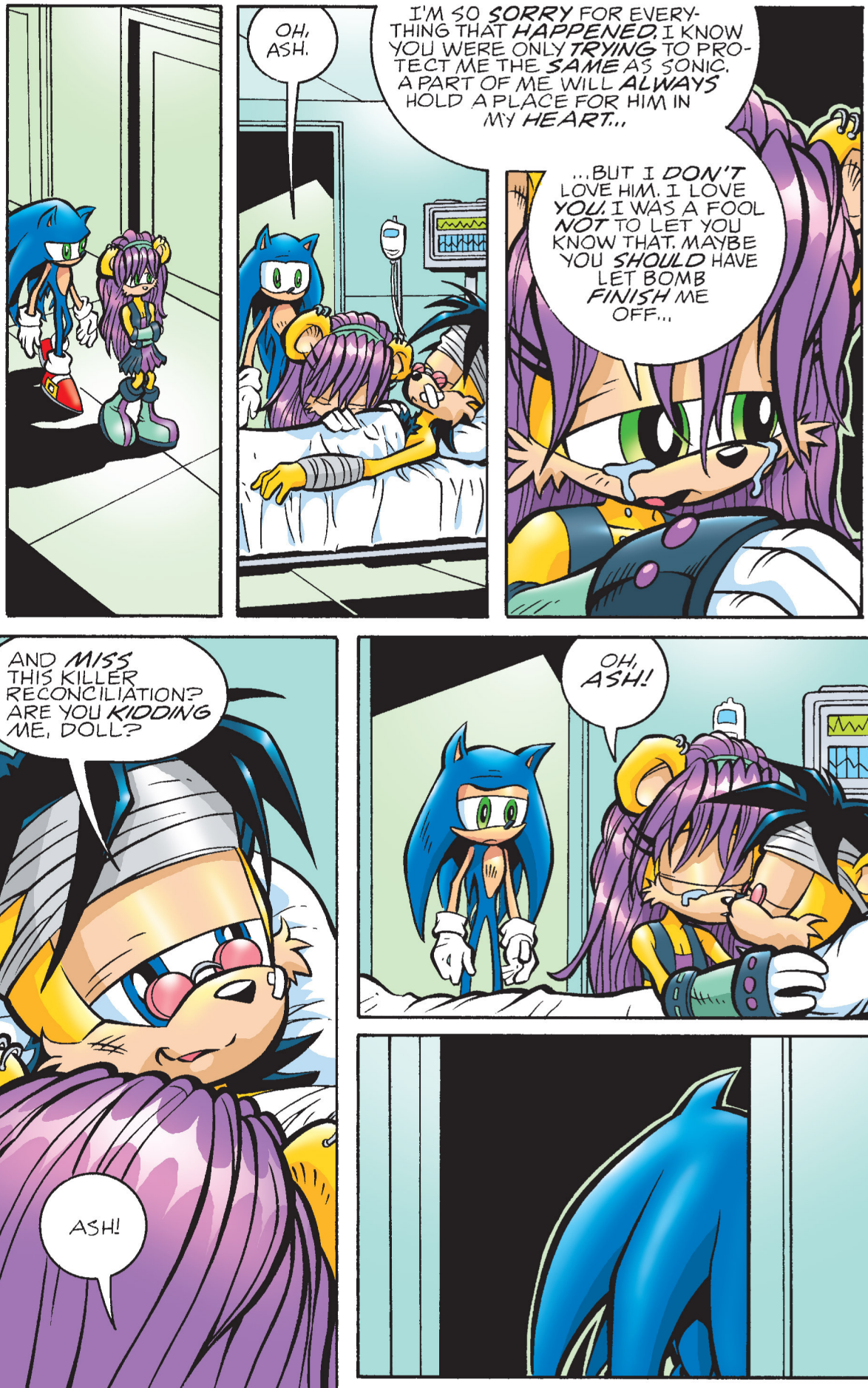

FWBOOSH
BOOM
UH-OH. HEAVY'S COMING AT ME FULL-STEAM AHEAD, AND IF HE CONNECTS--
--IT'S GONNA BE AN EARLY CURTAIN CALL FOR UNCLE CHUCK'S FAVORITE NEPHEW!
WAIT! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
VZZZZ
LET'S JUST HOPE THAT BUCKET OF BOLTS--
--IS STUPID ENOUGH TO TAKE THE BAIT!
VZZZZ
VZZZZZ
WELL, THIS IS IT--THE POINT OF NO RETURN!
IT'S A GAMBLE, BUT I'VE GOT NO OTHER CHOICE.

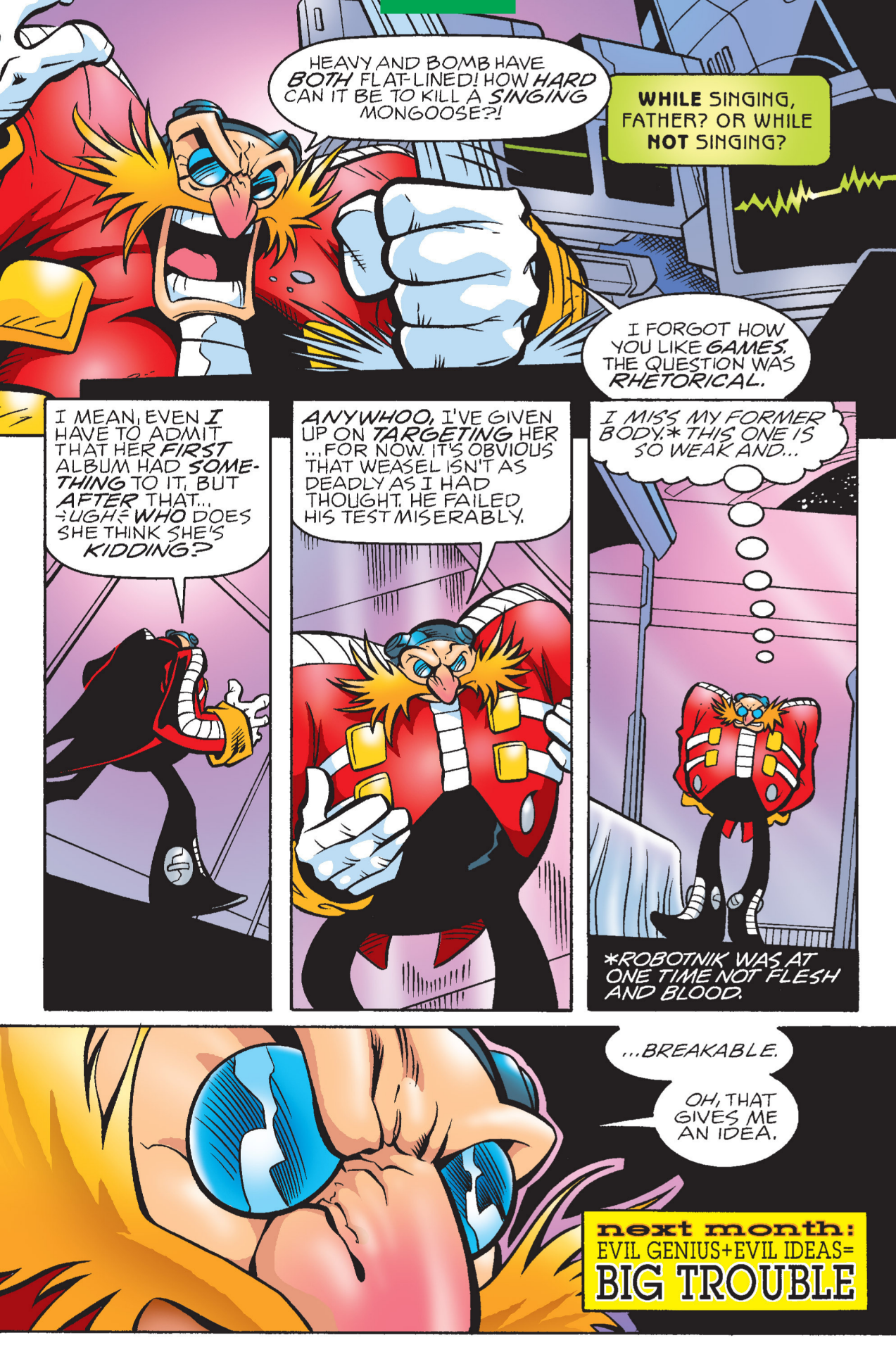

BELIEVE ME, HEAVY--THIS IS GONNA HURT ME A LOT WORSE THAN YOU!
VZZZZ
SPLOOSH
THAT MOVE WAS COMPLETELY INSANE IN THE MEMBRANE...
...BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD THINK OF STOPPING...
...AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE...

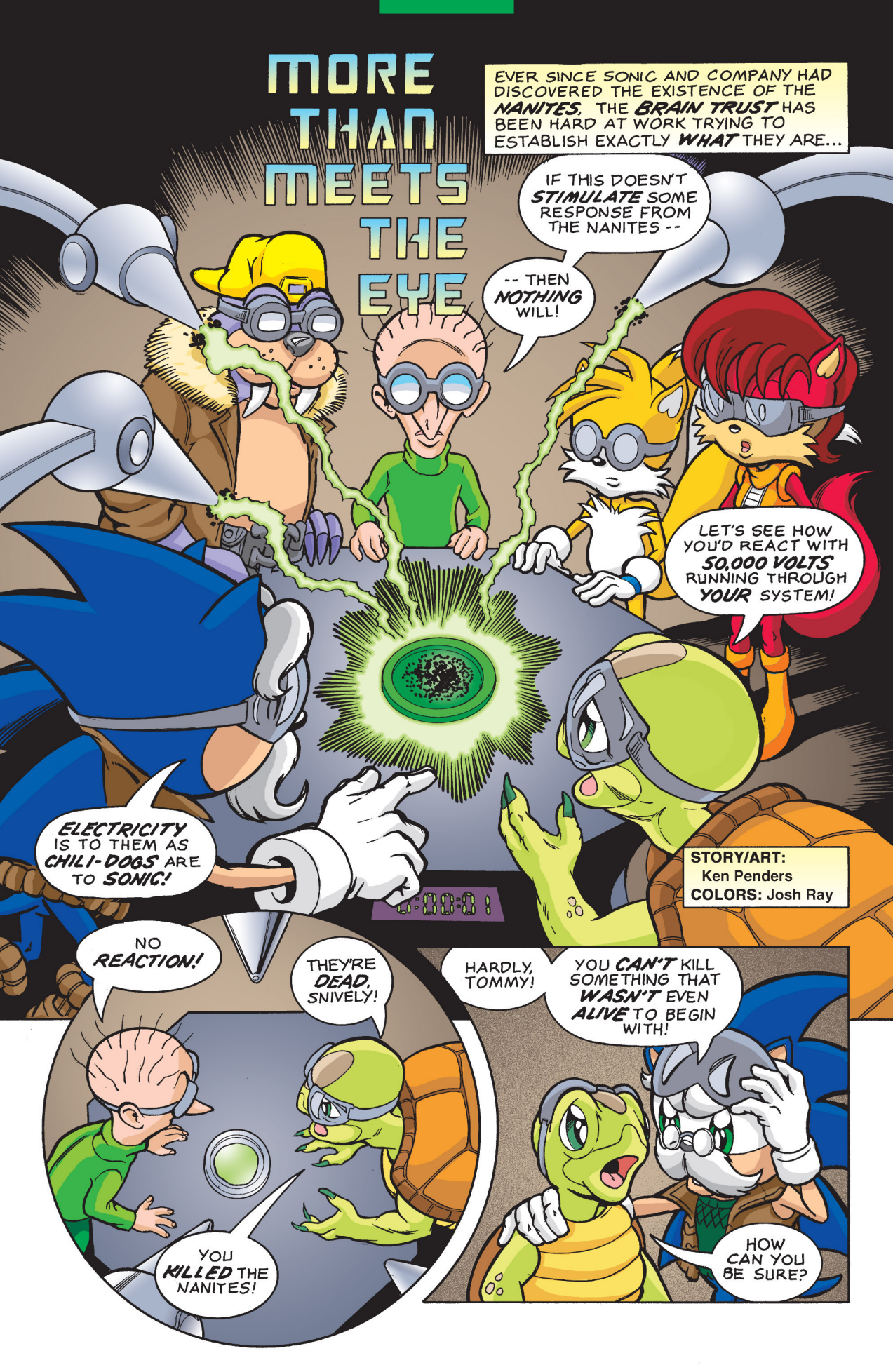

HE'S COMING TO...
=KOFF=
=HACK=
=SPUTTER=
GOOD THING I GOT TO YA IN TIME, SUGAH-HOG!
BUNNIE-- ARE ALL THE BOMBS OUT OF COMMIS-SION?
YUP, AS FAR AS WE C'N TELL...
COOL! WE DID IT, SAL. THE THREAT TO MINA IS OVER ...AND SO IS THE CONCERT, I GUESS!
DON'T WORRY, SONIC, MINA WILL SING AGAIN, THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR TEAM. HOPEFULLY, ROBOTNIK WILL REALIZE SHE'S NO EASY TARGET.
SONIC, HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU FOR SAVING THE DAY?
PROMISE ME WE'LL HAVE CHILIDOGS SOMETIME!
CONSIDER IT A DATE!

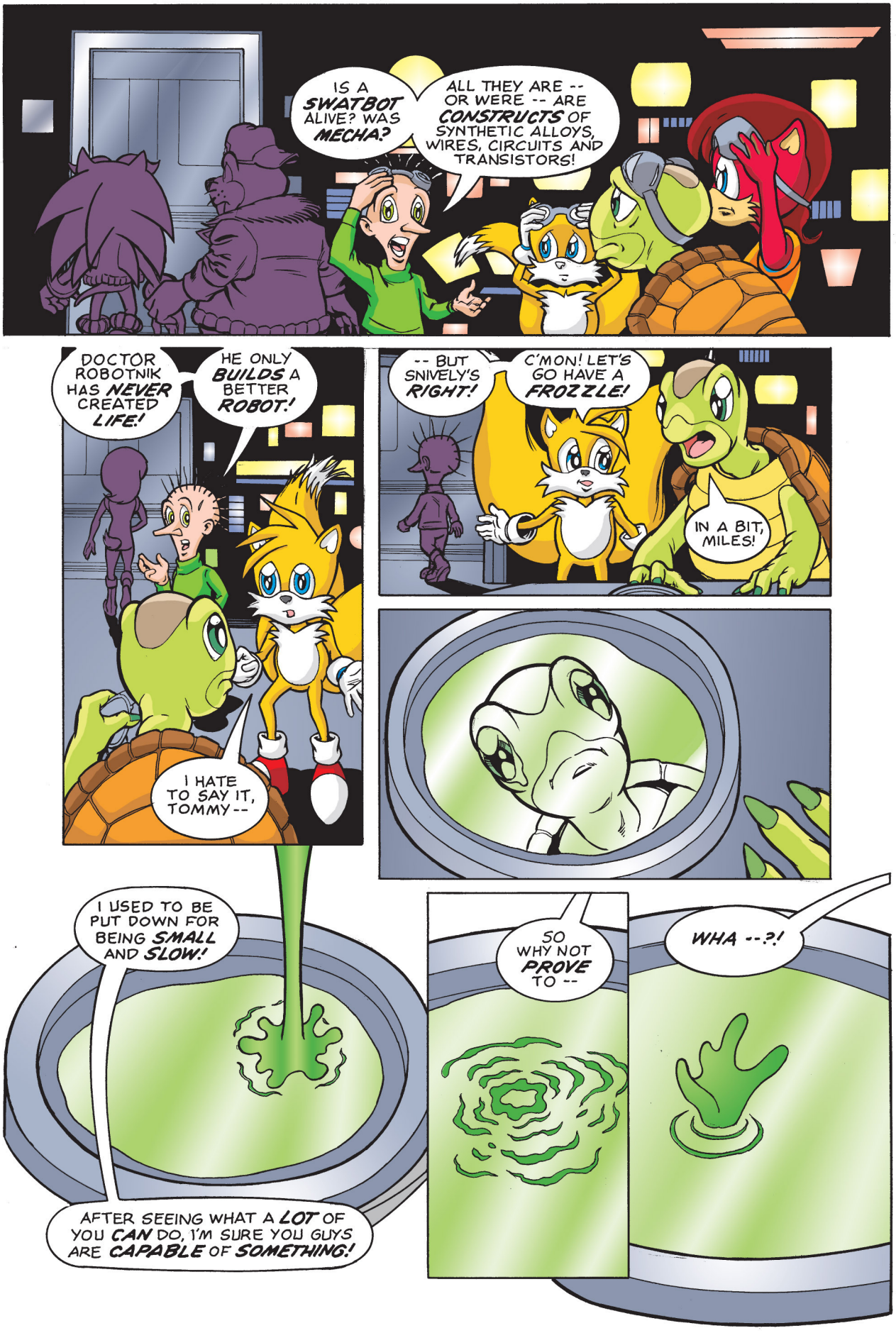

SOON...
MINA, WAIT!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, ASH?
I WANT TO TALK.
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT TO DISCUSS. IT'S OVER BETWEEN US.
BUT I LOVE--
OH, MY GOSH! ANOTHER BOMB!
TICK-TICK TICK-TICK
DON'T WORRY, MINA! I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!
ASH! NO!!!

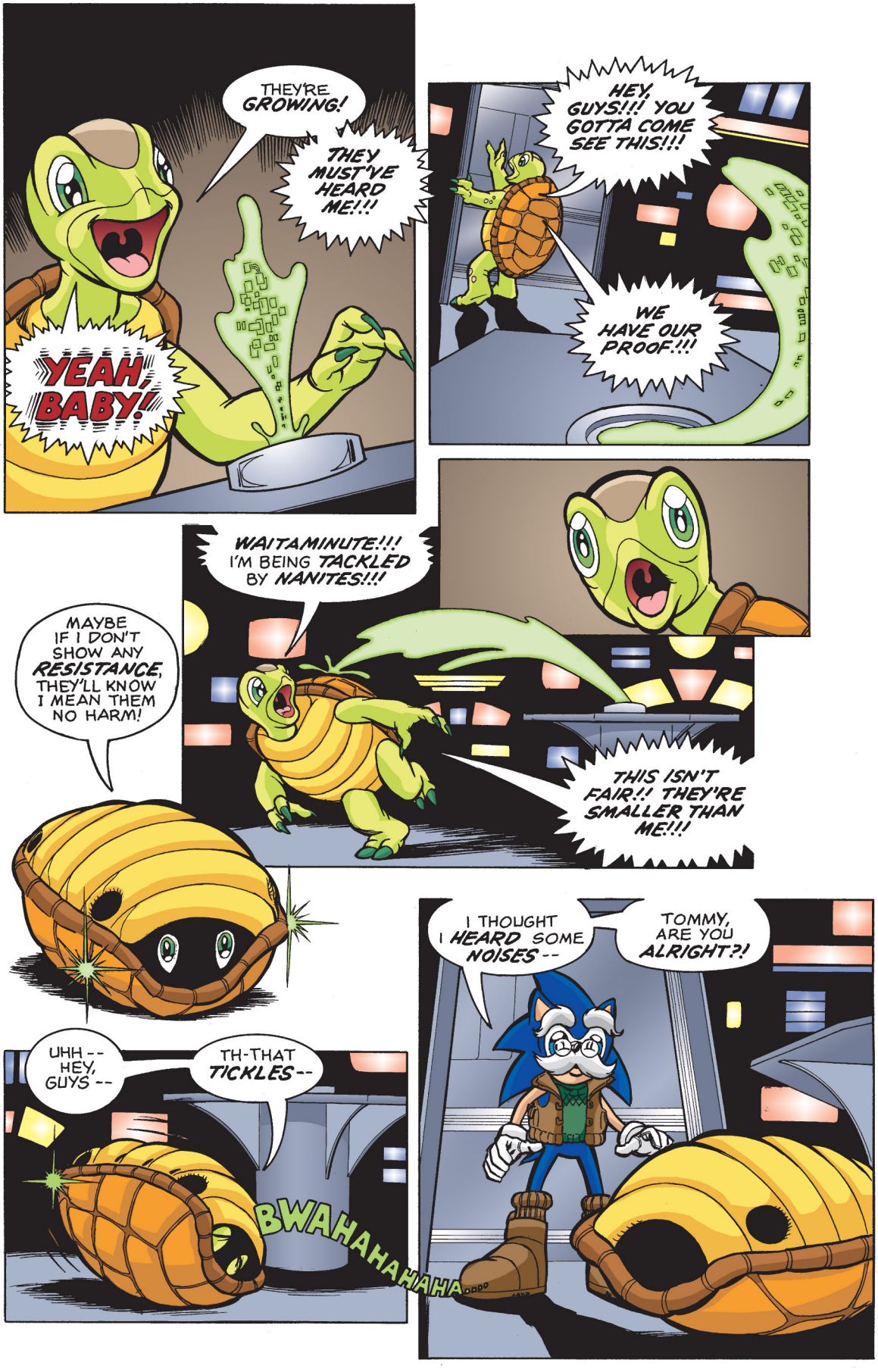

BOOM
WHAT THE--?!
OH, NO!
MINA!
ASH... OH, MY POOR, POOR ASH...
CASTLE ACORN.
THE ROYAL INFIRMARY --LATER.
DOCTOR QUACK!
FIRST... GENERAL D'COOLETTE* ...NOW THIS. ANY WORD?
WELL, HE'S GOING TO PULL THROUGH...
...BUT HE'S GOING TO BE ON THE SLOW MEND FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. HE'S SLEEPING, BUT YOU CAN GO SEE HIM NOW, MINA.
*LAST ISSUE GENERAL D'COOLETTE FELL SERIOUSLY ILL.

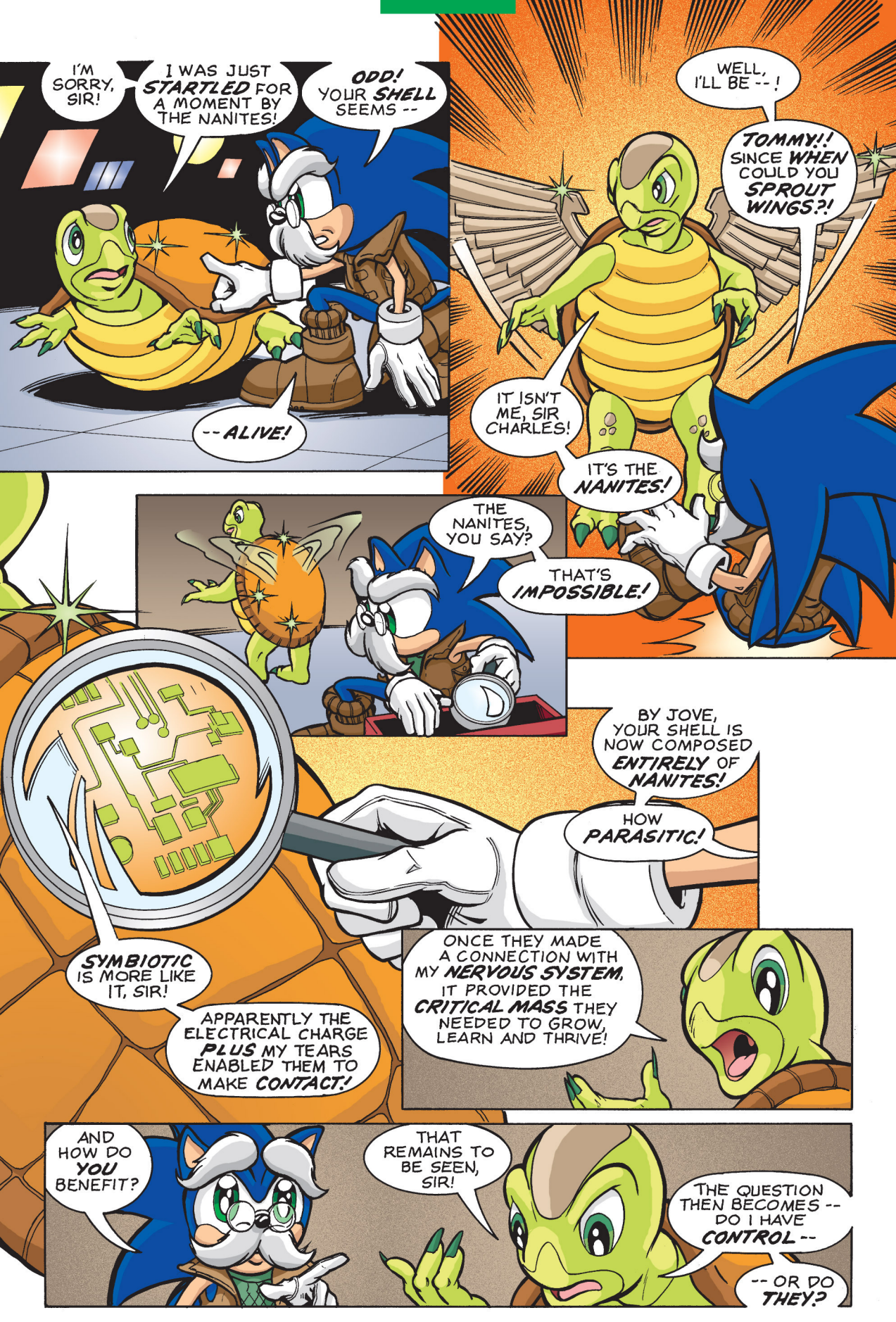

OH, ASH.
I'M SO SORRY FOR EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED. I KNOW YOU WERE ONLY TRYING TO PROTECT ME THE SAME AS SONIC. A PART OF ME WILL ALWAYS HOLD A PLACE FOR HIM IN MY HEART...
...BUT I DON'T LOVE HIM. I LOVE YOU. I WAS A FOOL NOT TO LET YOU KNOW THAT. MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE LET BOMB FINISH ME OFF...
AND MISS THIS KILLER RECONCILIATION? ARE YOU KIDDING ME, DOLL?
ASH!
OH, ASH!


HEAVY AND BOMB HAVE BOTH FLAT-LINED! HOW HARD CAN IT BE TO KILL A SINGING MONGOOSE?!
WHILE SINGING, FATHER? OR WHILE NOT SINGING?
I FORGOT HOW YOU LIKE GAMES. THE QUESTION WAS RHETORICAL.
I MEAN, EVEN I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT HER FIRST ALBUM HAD SOMETHING TO IT, BUT AFTER THAT... UGH! WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE'S KIDDING?
ANYWHOO, I'VE GIVEN UP ON TARGETING HER ...FOR NOW. IT'S OBVIOUS THAT WEASEL ISN'T AS DEADLY AS I HAD THOUGHT. HE FAILED HIS TEST MISERABLY.
I MISS MY FORMER BODY.* THIS ONE IS SO WEAK AND...
*ROBOTNIK WAS AT ONE TIME NOT FLESH AND BLOOD.
...BREAKABLE.
OH, THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA.
next month:
EVIL GENIUS+EVIL IDEAS=
BIG TROUBLE


MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE
EVER SINCE SONIC AND COMPANY HAD DISCOVERED THE EXISTENCE OF THE NANITES, THE BRAIN TRUST HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK TRYING TO ESTABLISH EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE...
IF THIS DOESN'T STIMULATE SOME RESPONSE FROM THE NANITES --
-- THEN NOTHING WILL!
LET'S SEE HOW YOU'D REACT WITH 50,000 VOLTS RUNNING THROUGH YOUR SYSTEM!
ELECTRICITY IS TO THEM AS CHILI-DOGS ARE TO SONIC!
STORY/ART: Ken Penders
COLORS: Josh Ray
NO REACTION!
THEY'RE DEAD, SNIVELY!
YOU KILLED THE NANITES!
HARDLY, TOMMY!
YOU CAN'T KILL SOMETHING THAT WASN'T EVEN ALIVE TO BEGIN WITH!
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?


IS A SWATBOT ALIVE? WAS MECHA?
ALL THEY ARE -- OR WERE -- ARE CONSTRUCTS OF SYNTHETIC ALLOYS, WIRES, CIRCUITS AND TRANSISTORS!
DOCTOR ROBOTNIK HAS NEVER CREATED LIFE!
HE ONLY BUILDS A BETTER ROBOT!
I HATE TO SAY IT, TOMMY --
-- BUT SNIVELY'S RIGHT!
C'MON! LET'S GO HAVE A FROZZLE!
IN A BIT, MILES!
I USED TO BE PUT DOWN FOR BEING SMALL AND SLOW!
AFTER SEEING WHAT A LOT OF YOU CAN DO, I'M SURE YOU GUYS ARE CAPABLE OF SOMETHING!
SO WHY NOT PROVE TO --
WHA --?!


THEY'RE GROWING!
THEY MUST'VE HEARD ME!!!
YEAH, BABY!
HEY, GUYS!!! YOU GOTTA COME SEE THIS!!!
WE HAVE OUR PROOF!!!
WAITAMINUTE!!! I'M BEING TACKLED BY NANITES!!!
MAYBE IF I DON'T SHOW ANY RESISTANCE, THEY'LL KNOW I MEAN THEM NO HARM!
THIS ISN'T FAIR!! THEY'RE SMALLER THAN ME!!!
UHH -- HEY, GUYS --
TH-THAT TICKLES --
BWAHAHAHAHA
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOME NOISES --
TOMMY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!


I'M SORRY, SIR!
I WAS JUST STARTLED FOR A MOMENT BY THE NANITES!
ODD! YOUR SHELL SEEMS --
-- ALIVE!
WELL, I'LL BE -- !
TOMMY!! SINCE WHEN COULD YOU SPROUT WINGS?!
IT ISN'T ME, SIR CHARLES!
IT'S THE NANITES!
THE NANITES, YOU SAY?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
BY JOVE, YOUR SHELL IS NOW COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF NANITES!
HOW PARASITIC!
SYMBIOTIC IS MORE LIKE IT, SIR!
APPARENTLY THE ELECTRICAL CHARGE PLUS MY TEARS ENABLED THEM TO MAKE CONTACT!
ONCE THEY MADE A CONNECTION WITH MY NERVOUS SYSTEM, IT PROVIDED THE CRITICAL MASS THEY NEEDED TO GROW, LEARN AND THRIVE!
AND HOW DO YOU BENEFIT?
THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, SIR!
THE QUESTION THEN BECOMES -- DO I HAVE CONTROL --
-- OR DO THEY?

SOMETIME LATER, UPON RECEIVING SIR CHARLES' CALL, THE KNOTHOLE BRAIN TRUST GATHERS TO FIND...
-- AND ALL I HAD TO DO WAS THINK I WANTED TO GO SOMEWHERE --
-- AND LOOK!
MY SHELL BECOMES A JET-PACK!
YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?
IF YOU CAME UP WITH THE ORIGINAL THOUGHT, WHAT DID THE NANITES DO?
GOOD POINT --
-- EXCEPT I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT GOING SOMEWHERE --
VRROAARR
-- NOT WHERE AND HOW!!!
VRRROOAAARRRRRUMM
WELL, EVERYONE --
-- I THINK THE QUESTION HAS BEEN SETTLED ONCE AND FOR ALL!
WE'RE JUST GOING FOR A TEST DRIVE
DEFINITELY NOT THE END!